

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

ROSS HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

ROSS HOUSE (105 Council Street)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

105 & 105A Council Street (Court Square)

CITY, TOWN

Frederick

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Frederick

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Frederick County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

N. Court Street

CITY, TOWN

Frederick, Maryland

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

FHD-702

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is a 3-1/2 story, Flemish bond brick house with 2-1/2 story brick wing on the west side of the house. The doorway is Federal with elliptical, recessed fanlight and sidelights of leaded glass. Windows are 6/6 lights and wooden shutters. Shingled "A" framed roof on the main house and wing changed in 1928 to tin roofs. There are three pedimented dormers on the main house and two on the wing. There is a full basement under the entire house. The building rests on a high foundation of stuccoed blue fieldstone. Front steps and window sills are marble. The cast iron fence, gate, and rails for the steps were made at the McPherson and Brien Iron Works at Catocin Furnace, Maryland. Also, the iron firebacks were made there for the fifteen fireplaces in the home. There are two, six flue flush gable chimneys, one on each side of the gable roof of the main house. There is one four flue chimney on the wing and one connects with built in iron kettle in the basement. Cornices are box plain. In the rear of the house and wing is a seven foot brick wall on each side of the yard and connects to slave quarters on the west and a smoke house on the east. Across the entire rear property are stables and a carriage house. The old ice house is in the center of the yard. These dependencies are termed Colonial-domestic architecture.

There is one room on the first floor of the main house and one room above the off landing added about 1891. The porch on the front of the wing and back, second floor of the main house was added about 1912. The main house was separated from the wing in 1960, and exterior change in the rear of the wing shows addition for a kitchen to the main house with aluminum siding. The first floor back porch of the main house was added in 1965 and enlarged in 1968.

The main house has a central hall with open well stairway, two flights and two runs for each floor. There are six inch risers and ornamental brackets with spiral newel post. There is an archway in the middle of the central hall with ten inch fluted columns. There are six panel doors and symmetrically moulded trim with corner blocks on the main house. The wing has plain trim doors. Two rooms on the east wall of the hall, first floor, have oval paneling under the windows and over the doors like Baltimore Room American Wing, Metropolitan Museum, N.Y. The window frames on the first and second floor of the main house are like doors, all having paneling to the floor and inside shutters of wood. A plastered design is noted on the first floor ceilings of the main house. The stair rail is San Domingo mahogany with mahogany posts.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		Historic	

c 1817

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1814, the Levy Court gave permission to sell property by the Legislature. It was sold at public auction in 1815 and purchased by Col. John McPherson. The Deed was recorded in 1817. The architect was Andrew McCleery of Frederick, Maryland.

General LaFayette was hosted by Col. John McPherson in December 29, 1824 as evidenced by Fredericktown Herald on January 1, 1825. There is a microfilm of the paper in the C.B. Artz Library, Frederick. A reception was given for LaFayette on December 30, 1824 in the John McPherson home. The room over the back parlor has been known as the room where General LaFayette used while in the home.

At the death of Col. McPherson, the property was left to John McPherson, Jr., who sold it to Mrs. Eleanor Murdock Potts, widow of Judge Richard Potts, U.S. Senator, Chief Justice of the Fifth Judicial District, Judge of the Washington Supreme Court, and U.S. District Attorney for the District of Maryland. Mrs. Potts was a first cousin to Francis Scott Key who was a frequent visitor to the home. On October 22, 1840, Francis Scott Key wrote a poem *"To Mrs. Eleanor Potts, for many years afflicted with blindness on hearing her play the guitar."* Mrs. Potts died in 1842 and her daughter, Harriet, wife of Judge Richard Marshall, inherited the property. Judge Marshall was the son of Dr. Thomas Marshall, neighbor and friend of George Washington. Judge Marshall's law office was in the wing of the house. Mrs. Marshall died in 1867 and her daughter, Ann Potts Marshall, who was living in the home, inherited the property. Miss Marshall died in 1890. The home was then willed to her first cousin, Mrs. Charles Worthington Ross. She was the granddaughter of Mrs. Eleanor Potts. Mr. Ross used the wing as his law office. Mrs. Ross died in 1927. The home was then purchased by Mrs. Charles Worthington Ross, Jr. who died in 1963. The home has been in the Ross family since 1835.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Ross, III

ORGANIZATION

Landmarks Foundation

DATE

JUNE 1973

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Frederick, Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438